



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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*86 Chambers Street  
New York, New York 10007*

November 27, 2023

**By ECF**

The Honorable Paul A. Engelmayer  
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse  
40 Foley Square  
New York, NY 10007

Re: *Reclaim the Records v. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services*,  
23 Civ. 1997 (PAE)

Dear Judge Engelmayer:

This Office represents United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (“Government”), defendant in this action brought pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (“FOIA”). With plaintiffs’ consent, we write respectfully to request a 38-day<sup>1</sup> extension of time to file the Government’s response to the complaint, currently due December 1. If the Court were to grant this request, the Government’s response would be due January 8. The reason for this request is that the parties continue to negotiate a possible resolution of the plaintiffs’ “policy and practice” claim, as well as a possible resolution of the processing of the FOIA requests at issue in this action. Additional time is necessary for the parties to determine whether they will be able to resolve these issues, which in turn will help the Government decide how to respond to the complaint, and in particular whether the parties will need to engage in motion practice over the “policy and practice” claim.

This is the Government’s seventh request for an extension. The Court granted the prior requests. *See* ECF No. 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. While this is the seventh extension request, the parties continue to make progress and believe that continued negotiation may allow the parties to narrow the issues in dispute. The extension will not delay the processing of plaintiff’s FOIA requests, which is ongoing. Nor will it affect any other scheduled dates.

We thank the Court for its consideration of this request.

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<sup>1</sup> Because a 30-day extension would result in a Sunday, December 31 deadline, and in light of the Christmas and New Year’s holidays, the parties instead respectfully request a 38-day extension, which would give the parties until the end of the first week of January.

Respectfully,

DAMIAN WILLIAMS  
United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York

By: /s/ Ilan Stein  
ILAN STEIN  
Assistant United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York  
Tel.: (212) 637-2525  
Email: ilan.stein@usdoj.gov